

Lunenburg Council on Aging Minutes

September 11, 2012

Present: Mary Lynn Conrad, (Chairperson), Doreen Noble (Director), Barbara Brown, Jane Doyle, Deb Seeley, Fred Crellin, Jim Hays, Sis Montuori, Joyce Wass, and Sue Doherty (Admin. Asst.)

Excused: Pete Lincoln (Vice-Chairperson)

Guest: State Rep. Jen Benson

Welcome: Mary Lynn Conrad (Chairperson) opened the meeting at 9:34AM

Ms. Conrad read an excerpt from a 9/11 poem in honor of Lunenburg resident Kevin Szocik.

Ms. Noble stated that on the request of Pete Lincoln, State Rep. Jen Benson had been invited to the COA meeting this month to discuss what is currently happening in the State Legislature and to have the COA voice their concerns about elder issues. A "round table" type discussion ensued which examined topics such as Formula Grant funding for COA's, Elder Nutrition Programs, Health Care, Elder Scams, and the fiscal realities of the day to day decisions that the Legislature need to make in order to keep programs afloat. Board members contributed their thoughts on which areas they thought the government could do better in to be more fiscally responsible which included pension reform, welfare fraud, and the possibility of having MIIA (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association) fund the SHINE(Serving Health Information Needs of Elders) program.

The board thanked Rep. Benson for making time to come to speak at this meeting.

Minutes: Jane Doyle motioned to accept the minutes of the August 14, 2012 COA Meeting. Jim Hays seconded. All approved, motion carried.

Director's Report:

Finance/Informational Report: Ms. Noble thanked the COA board members for participating in 2012 Volunteer Recognition Ceremony/Cookout and said that the event was well attended. She also thanked Sue Doherty for orchestrating the event.

COA Van Driver Hoyt (Bill) Anderson had resigned at the end of August. Gerry Beloin will be taking the extra hours until a replacement has been found. Ms. Noble stated that she will be advertising for two "Per deim" drivers beginning with an "in house" advertisement then it will go public if there are no qualified applicants.

Meal Site Coordinator Ruth Swiecicki will be leaving in October to live in Florida for 6 months out of the year. Ms. Noble will be advertising for one or two "Per deim" Coordinators in order to have back up in the kitchen. This ad will go "in house" first then if there are no qualified applicants it will be made public.

Meal Site Coordinator Chris McCarthy will be taking the ServeSafe Certification Course online in the near future.

D.P.W. has hired a full-time building maintenance person who works on maintenance projects in the Town buildings. Ms. Noble will negotiate with the Town Manager on having his hours increased at the Eagle House to 10-14 hrs. per week. The Eagle House also uses a Property Tax Work-off person two days a week to help with tasks at the center. The Town will still retain an outside cleaning company to come in at night to work.

Capitol Planning has approved \$10K for the replacement of the kitchen refrigerator, steam table, & oven. A representative from Kittredge Equipment came to the center to look at the existing appliances and will be sending quotes for replacements. A quote will also be given for a new salad bar.

Ms. Noble reported that a representative from AmeriRamp came to the center to look at the area between the upper and lower parking lots for installing a concrete ramp. He came to the conclusion that it was not worth doing considering the expense of the project. Ms. Noble said that there may be Formula Grant funding available for some type of stairway for that area but has not submitted it to the State yet.

Farmer's Market Coupons, which come from the elder nutrition program (MOC), were distributed to 50 "income eligible" Lunenburg residents this past summer. Participants received \$25 worth of coupons which could be used at participating Farmers Markets for fresh produce. Eagle House Outreach Coordinator Faith Anderson worked diligently at making sure our elders who were eligible were notified about this program. The Lunenburg program was so successful that MOC distributed another 12 coupons to Ms. Anderson for distribution. MOC Nutrition also had 2 "Fresh Vegetable" distribution days for Lunenburg residents on the "Brown Bag" program. Ms. Noble and Gil Anderson retrieved over 50 bags of produce to be distributed to participants of this program.

The COA monthly financial page was distributed to members for review.

Old Business

Recreation Area Behind Eagle House: As of this meeting plans for the recreation area behind the Eagle House are to install a bocce court hopefully in the spring.

Lunenburg Relief Day: Ms. Noble stated that funds collected for the COA on Lunenburg Relief Day amounted to \$5K. One more check was received after the event in the amount of \$100. The goal of \$12K has not been reached.

FY13 Formula Grant: Ms. Noble reported that this year the grant is for approximately \$14.5K and is used for Outreach Salary and Meals on Wheels mileage. She is hoping to be able to use \$4K of the grant to install stairs between the upper and lower parking lots.

Ms. Noble also said that the Annual report to Executive Office of Elder Affairs has been completed. Jane Doyle requested a copy of this report be given to COA board members.

New Business:

Sub-committee Report:

Approval of FY12 Minutes – The following Sub-Committee minutes were submitted for approval:

Director's Evaluation Sub-Committee

1/18/12

2/3/12

2/17/12

2/24/12

3/2/12

Bylaw Sub-Committee

3/8/12

Jane Doyle motioned to approve all Sub-Committee minutes as presented. Sis Montouri seconded. All approved, motion carried.

COA Sub-Committee re-assignments for FY13 are as follows:

Board Development- Pete Lincoln, Jim Hays, & Sis Montouri

Bylaw – Barbara Brown, Joyce Wass, & Jim Hays

Advocacy – Sis Montouri, Barbara Brown, Joyce Wass, & Pete Lincoln

Finance – Jane Doyle, Deb Seeley, Jim Hays, & Fred Crellin

Directors Evaluation – Jane Doyle, Deb Seeley & Fred Crellin

Correspondence: Sis Montouri received a note from former COA Board member Gloria O'Brien which she read to the board.

General Discussion: Friends of the Eagle House Inc. have changed their name to “Supporters of the Eagle House Inc.” Executive Office of Elder Affairs was contacted regarding this matter and they replied that the name change would not be a problem.

Adjournment: Sis Montouri motioned to adjourn the meeting. Jane Doyle seconded. All approved, motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Susan Doherty, Administrative Assistant
Lunenburg Council on Aging*